

**Consider Funding the FY 2009 Recreational Trails Program
(Motorized Portion) Grant Applications**

Background

Arizona State Parks received three (3) eligible Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) grant applications requesting \$521,560. The funding for this grant cycle represents federal apportionments to Arizona for FFY 2009 under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) as authorized by Congress under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (23 U.S.C. §206).

Current Status

On August 25, 2009 the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued Notice N4510.710 - Rescission of Unobligated Balances of Contract Authority on September 30, 2009. This Notice is to notify the States that \$8,708,000,000 of unobligated Federal-aid highway funds apportioned to States will be rescinded on September 30, 2009, as required by Section 10212 of the SAFETEA-LU, Public Law (Pub. L.) 109-59, as amended by Section 1302(b) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Pub. L. 109-280 and Section 112 of the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-244, as affected by Title XI, Subtitle D, Section 1132(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Pub. L. 110-140. FHWA has no discretion in the application of the \$8,708,000,000 rescission.

For Arizona State Parks this rescission will affect our Recreational Trails Program. FHWA provided two tables with this notice. One table indicated a calculated rescission to Arizona's RTP apportionment of \$384,106. The second table provided that the notice indicates the *maximum* rescission to be \$422,516.

Subsequently, the Arizona Department of Transportation has been asked to provide further information to FHWA. FHWA is then to issue an additional Notice providing the final detailed information on amounts to be rescinded from the State by September 24, 2009. So unfortunately, at this moment, the precise amount of the rescission is unknown. After numerous discussions with the FHWA, staff is confident, however, that funds will be available for grants.

Arizona State Parks must convene a meeting of the State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee annually to be eligible for RTP funds. This is accomplished by bringing the Arizona State Committee On Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group together for a joint meeting. This group reviews staff recommendations on how the RTP funds should be distributed and has agreed annually with the staff recommendation to divide all RTP funds equally between motorized and non-motorized uses.

The RTP program manager in Washington, D.C., responded to our inquiry that the state need not reduce the amount of its administrative portion from the allowed 7% of the original apportionment.

Based on these considerations the amount of rescission, whatever it may be when finally determined, will be reduced proportionally from the education (5.4%), motorized (47.3%), and non-motorized (47.3%) components of the RTP.

A review team scored the 2009 applications per the criteria in the approved FY 2009 Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) Grant Manual. Attached are pages indicating the requested and eligible scope items for each project and the breakdown of total rating points received. The cap on the amount that can be awarded to any one entity is \$280,000. None of the grant requests exceed the cap.

A total of \$369,218 is available for the FY 2009 motorized trails grants as summarized below:

FY 2009 revenue available for grants	\$	650,212
FY 2008 balance of unobligated funds		198,856
FY 2008 project awarded (pending federal obligation)		(280,000)
47.3% of maximum rescission amount		(199,850)
Total available for 2009 grants	\$	369,218

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends awarding \$245,260 to the two highest scoring applications. All projects must complete the Section 106 requirements and obtain National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration. The recommended funding is as follows:

Total available revenue	\$	369,218
Total recommended awards	\$	(245,560)
Uncommitted balance	\$	<u>123,958</u>

Rationale for recommendation: The Arizona State Parks Strategic Plan directs staff to ensure the allocation of RTP grant dollars to high priority projects. High priority projects are defined as those scoring at least 80 of 100 points in the rating criteria. The Strategic Plan directs that 50% of motorized trails grants be awarded to high priority projects. Staff recommends funding the top rated projects when funding requests exceed the funds available. The staff recommendation meets this strategic plan goal.

The Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) unanimously concurred with the staff recommendation to fund all projects at their August 7, 2009 meeting. *This was prior to the notice of rescission of RTP funds.*

Staff will recommend awarding \$276,300 to the Town of Eagar, Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations project #470903 as soon as sufficient RTP motorized portion funds become available, and forward that recommendation to the Parks Board for action.

Recommended Board Action

I move that Recreational Trails Program (Motorized Portion) funding be approved for the two highest scoring applications at \$245,260 pending completion of the Section 106 requirements and obtaining National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration, and that the Executive Director or designee be authorized to execute the participant agreements.

2.a.

FY2009 RTP MOTORIZED PORTION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Rating Score	Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	Requested Grant Amount	Recommended Grant Amount	Match	Total Project Cost
97	470901	BLM-Hassayampa Field Office	Table Mesa/Hieroglyphics OHV Area Development	\$203,815	\$203,815	\$27,105	\$230,920
84	470902	BLM-Arizona Strip Field Office	GCPNM Travel Information/Signage Development	\$41,445	\$41,445	\$4,605	\$46,050
80	470903	Town of Eagar	Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations	\$276,300	\$0	\$30,700	\$30,700
Totals				\$521,560	\$245,260	\$62,410	\$307,670
3 Applications							



FY 2009 Recommendations

Recreational Trails Program

BLM- Hassayampa Field Office Table Mesa/Hieroglyphics OHV Area Dev Project Location: Maricopa County Total Rating Points 97	Project Contact: Mary Skordinsky Outdoor Recreation Planner 21605 N. 7th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85027 623/580-5586
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Description:

This project will renovate designated trails in three of the Hieroglyphics Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) to correct damage from erosion and to mitigate dust issues. Unauthorized trails/areas will be closed and rehabilitated. A multi-use staging area will be developed in the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone and trails signed to establish a controlled use area. The other areas include the Boulders OHV area and Vulture Mountain.

Applicant Request

New Trails/Opportunities	\$27,225.00
Renovate Trails	\$139,745.00
Signage	\$13,610.00
Support Facilities	\$50,340.00

Staff Recommendations

New Trails/Opportunities	\$27,225.00
Renovate Trails	\$139,745.00
Signage	\$13,610.00
Support Facilities	\$50,340.00

Proposed Matching Funds:	\$27,105.00	12%	Recommended Matching Funds:	\$27,105.00	12%
Requested Grant Amount:	\$203,815.00	88%	Recommended Grant Award:	\$203,815.00	88%
Proposed Total Project Cost:	\$230,920.00		Recommended Total Project Cost:	\$230,920.00	

Recommendations and Rationale:

Staff recommends funding this project as requested.

**BLM- Hassayampa Field Office
Table Mesa/Hieroglyphics OHV Area Dev**

Rating Criteria	Possible Points	Rating Score
1A-Describe the Plan	0 or 7	7
1B-Public Comment Opportunity	Up to 21	21
1C-Describe Plan Objectives	Up to 20	15
Minus Points (Planning)		-13
2-How was need identified	0 or 5	0
3A-Pictures/Maps	Up to 15	15
3B-Letters	Up to 10	0
3C-Community Concern	Up to 6	0
3D-Statistics/Studies/Surveys	Up to 10	0
3E-Agency Decision/Memo	0 or 5	0
3F-Regulations	Up to 10	5
Minus Points (Demo Need)		-15
4-New Trails or Opportunities	Up to 55	6
5-Access/Inventory	Up to 55	0
6-Renovate Trails	Up to 55	35
7-Provide Information/Maps	Up to 45	0
8-Provide Signage	Up to 35	3
9-Provide Support Facilities	Up to 35	8
10-Reduce Impacts	0 or 2	2
11-Increase Accessibility	0 or 2	0
12-Encourage Volunteers	0 or 2	2
13-Interagency Coordination	0 or 2	0
14-Seek Additional Funding	0 or 2	0
15-Trail Etiquette/Envir.Prot	0 or 2	2
Minus Points (Other Needs)		-1
16-Administrative Performance	0, 2 or 4	4
17-Post Completion Compliance	0 or 1	1
18-Workshop Attendance	REQUIRED	0
	TOTAL:	97

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**BLM- Arizona Strip Field Office
GCPNM Travel Information/Signage Dev**

Rating Criteria	Possible Points	Rating Score
1A-Describe the Plan	0 or 7	7
1B-Public Comment Opportunity	Up to 21	21
1C-Describe Plan Objectives	Up to 20	10
Minus Points (Planning)		-8
2-How was need identified	0 or 5	0
3A-Pictures/Maps	Up to 15	10
3B-Letters	Up to 10	2
3C-Community Concern	Up to 6	0
3D-Statistics/Studies/Surveys	Up to 10	5
3E-Agency Decision/Memo	0 or 5	0
3F-Regulations	Up to 10	10
Minus Points (Demo Need)		-22
4-New Trails or Opportunities	Up to 55	0
5-Access/Inventory	Up to 55	0
6-Renovate Trails	Up to 55	0
7-Provide Information/Maps	Up to 45	0
8-Provide Signage	Up to 35	2
9-Provide Support Facilities	Up to 35	33
10-Reduce Impacts	0 or 2	2
11-Increase Accessibility	0 or 2	0
12-Encourage Volunteers	0 or 2	2
13-Interagency Coordination	0 or 2	0
14-Seek Additional Funding	0 or 2	0
15-Trail Etiquette/Envir.Prot	0 or 2	2
Minus Points (Other Needs)		-1
16-Administrative Performance	0, 2 or 4	4
17-Post Completion Compliance	0 or 1	1
18-Workshop Attendance	REQUIRED	0
	TOTAL:	80

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FY 2009 Recommendations

Recreational Trails Program

Eagar Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations Project Location: Apache County Total Rating Points 84	Project Contact: Rick Pinckard Grants Administrator PO Box 1300 Eagar, AZ 85925 928/245-9783
Description: Work will be done to improve conditions on the Saffel Canyon Trail, an ATV trail on the Springerville RD. Two (2) bridges will be installed to mitigate damage to stream crossings. Several poorly designed and unsafe 50" cattle guards will be replaced. Trail renovation will be done to correct drainage and erosion issues and trail signage will be added.	
Applicant Request	Staff Recommendations
Wooden Bridges (4) \$176,000.00 Trail Renovation (Erosion Control) \$110,570.00 Signage \$20,430.00	

Proposed Matching Funds:	\$30,700.00	10%	Recommended Matching Funds:	\$0.00
Requested Grant Amount:	\$276,300.00	90%	Recommended Grant Award:	
Proposed Total Project Cost:	\$307,000.00		Recommended Total Project Cost:	

Recommendations and Rationale:

This project is eligible for funding and staff will recommend that to the State Parks Board when sufficient RTP motorized funds become available.

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**Eagar
Saffel Canyon Trail Renovations**

Rating Criteria	Possible Points	Rating Score
1A-Describe the Plan	0 or 7	0
1B-Public Comment Opportunity	Up to 21	0
1C-Describe Plan Objectives	Up to 20	0
Minus Points (Planning)		0
2-How was need identified	0 or 5	5
3A-Pictures/Maps	Up to 15	15
3B-Letters	Up to 10	0
3C-Community Concern	Up to 6	0
3D-Statistics/Studies/Surveys	Up to 10	0
3E-Agency Decision/Memo	0 or 5	0
3F-Regulations	Up to 10	0
Minus Points (Demo Need)		0
4-New Trails or Opportunities	Up to 55	0
5-Access/Inventory	Up to 55	0
6-Renovate Trails	Up to 55	51
7-Provide Information/Maps	Up to 45	0
8-Provide Signage	Up to 35	4
9-Provide Support Facilities	Up to 35	0
10-Reduce Impacts	0 or 2	0
11-Increase Accessibility	0 or 2	0
12-Encourage Volunteers	0 or 2	2
13-Interagency Coordination	0 or 2	2
14-Seek Additional Funding	0 or 2	0
15-Trail Etiquette/Envir.Prot	0 or 2	0
Minus Points (Other Needs)		0
16-Administrative Performance	0, 2 or 4	4
17-Post Completion Compliance	0 or 1	1
18-Workshop Attendance	REQUIRED	0
	TOTAL:	84

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